In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A fastening system for fastening an object on a patient table, the fastening system comprising:

____- a fastening device having a horizontally extending recess provided on at least one longitudinal side of the patient table; and

a rigid bracket adaptively shaped to engage with the recess without deformation of an engaging portion of the recess,

wherein the bracket is insertable into the recess in a substantially traversal direction to the longitudinal extent of the recess ~~with minimal frictional resistance~~ to ~~automatically~~ establish a force-fitting engagement.

2. (Previously presented) A fastening system for fastening an object on a patient table, the fastening system comprising:

a horizontally extending recess provided on at least one longitudinal side of the patient table; and

a bracket adaptively shaped to engage with the recess,

wherein the bracket is inserted into the recess in a substantially traversal direction to the longitudinal extent of the recess with minimal frictional resistance to automatically establish a form-fitting engagement.

3. (Original) The fastening system as in claim 1, wherein an upper inside wall of the recess extends upwardly toward a back wall of the recess, and a portion of the bracket is adapted to substantially engage with the upper inside wall of the recess toward the back wall of the recess.

4. (Original) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein an upward widening of the recess is formed toward the back wall of the recess.

5. (Original) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein the upper inside wall of the recess has a groove which extends in a parallel direction to the longitudinal of extent of the recess, and the bracket has a lug adapted to engage with the groove with minimal frictional resistance.

6. (Previously presented) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein the bracket is suitably shaped to accommodate an insertion of the bracket in the recess with minimal frictional resistance in a substantially traverse direction to the longitudinal direction of the recess to establish a force-fitting engagement between the recess and the bracket.

7. (Previously presented) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein the bracket is suitably shaped to accommodate an insertion of the bracket in the recess with minimal frictional resistance in a substantially traverse direction to the longitudinal direction of the recess to establish a form-fitting engagement between the recess and the bracket.

8. (Original) The fastening system as in claim 6, wherein a locking mechanism biases the bracket away from the recess via a spring to strengthen the force-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

9. (Original) The fastening system as in claim 7, wherein a locking mechanism biases the bracket away from the recess via a spring to strengthen the form-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

10. (Currently amended) The fastening system as in claim 9, wherein the locking mechanism utilizes the engagement of [[~~the~~]] a lug in a~~the~~ groove in the recess to stabilize the engagement of the bracket with the recess and to minimize[[s]] inadvertent disengaging movements of the bracket out of the form-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

11. (Currently amended) The fastening system as in claim 8, wherein the locking mechanism utilizes the engagement of [[~~the~~]] a lug in [[~~the~~]] a groove in the recess to stabilize the engagement of the bracket with the recess and to minimize[[s]] inadvertent disengaging movements of the bracket out of the force-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

12. (Previously presented) In an improvement of a bracket for fastening an object on a patient table with a suitably designed recess, the improvement comprising a shape of the bracket being adapted to a shape of the recess in such a way that the bracket is inserted without resistance into the recess in a direction of insertion independent of the direction of extent of the recess and is lodgeable in the recess with automatic establishment of a force-fit or form-fit engagement.

13. (Previously presented) The improvement of Claim 12 wherein a locking mechanism biases the bracket away from the recess via a spring force.

14. (Previously presented) The improvement of Claim 13 wherein the locking mechanism is operable to block a movement of the bracket out of the form-fit engagement with the recess.

15. (Previously presented) The fastening system as in claim 1, wherein the insertion of the bracket into the recess occurs without encountering a mechanical resistance.